

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 5, paragraph 1 please amend the following:

Formed in the plate **20** are a series of fastener openings **26**. The fastener openings **26** are strategically placed about the plate such that the plate can be firmly secured to a stud **18**. In the case of the embodiments illustrated in Figures 2 and 4, the fastener openings include ~~[[five]]~~ four openings as shown. A different number of openings could, of course, be provided. To secure the plate **20** to the back-up wall **14**, there is provided a series of fasteners. In the case of the embodiments illustrated herein, as indicated in Figure 6, the fasteners are in the form of screws **28**. Screws **28** are adapted to be extended from the front face of the plate **20** through the fastener openings **26**, through the wallboard **16** and directly into a side flange **18A** of a respective stud. That, of course, means that in securing the plate **20** to the wallboard **16**, that the plate is specifically aligned with a flange **18A** of a stud lying on the opposite side of the wallboard **16**. Various types of fasteners **28** can be utilized. Figure 9 illustrates one particular screw type fastener that would be effective in securing the plates of the brick ties disclosed herein to the backup board **14** and to the stud structures lying behind the back up wall **14**. Fastener **29** shown in Figure 10 includes a drill type end **28A**. Between end **28A** and the head of the screw **28**, there is provided a series of aggressive threads **28B**. A fastener such as illustrated in Figure 10 will effectively secure the brick ties **10** to the backup wall **14** and the flanges **18A** of the studs.